

Remarks

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 19 and 20.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Miller*. The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Miller* in view of *Bergman*.

The Examiner objected to claims 3-6, 12 and 14-18 as dependent upon a rejected base claim and indicated that these claims would each be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3 and intervening claim 2 into independent claim 1, as suggested by the Examiner.

As claim 1 is now believed to be in allowable form, the dependent claims thereof should also be allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite. The amendments incorporating the limitations of claims 2 and 3 into independent claim 1, now provide the proper antecedent basis for the slide strap.

Having obviated each of the Examiners rejections, applicant respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued. Should the Examiner be inclined to issue an Official Action other than the notice of allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner first contact Applicant by telephone at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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(submitted via EFS-Web)